

## MINUTES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**Wednesday, May 16, 2007                      2:45 p.m.                      Room 307 House Office Building, Lansing**

Representative Mayes, Chair, called the meeting to order.

**MEMBERS PRESENT: Representatives Mayes, Byrum, Angerer, Brown, Kathleen Law, Leland, Sheltrown, Walker, Nitz, Ball, Meekhof. (11/11)**

Representative Angerer made a motion to adopt the minutes of the meeting of May 9, 2007. No objections being offered, a unanimous ballot was cast to accept the minutes as presented.

The Chair laid the following resolutions before the Committee.

HR 76	Mayes	A resolution to memorialize the Congress of the United States to provide resources to address the Colony Collapse Disorder affecting honeybees.
-------	-------	---

HR 96	Byrum	A resolution to express opposition to Norfolk Southern Corporation's proposed sale of its rail line between Lansing and Jackson.
-------	-------	--

Representative Byrum spoke to the Committee regarding HR 96.

Bob Tadsen, representing the Michigan Agri-Business Association, submitted a card indicating support for HR 96.

Representative Mayes spoke to the Committee regarding HR 76.

Tonia Ritter, representing the Michigan Farm Bureau, submitted a card indicating support for HR 76.

Mike Hansen, Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) Plant and Pesticide Region 5 Manager, and Liesl Eichler-Clark, also representing the MDA, spoke to the Committee regarding HR 76 and Colony Collapse Disorder and answered questions for members.

Terry Klein, representing T. M. Klein and Sons Honey, and David Anthony, head of the Michigan Beekeepers Association, also spoke to the Committee regarding the Colony Collapse Disorder and other factors affecting bee colonies as well as emphasizing the need to increase the number of beekeepers and hives. Additional problems reviewed included the cost of replacement bees; zoning issues; right-to-farm; and unusual weather.

Following discussion, Chair Mayes indicated that a vote would be taken on the House Resolutions before the Committee.

Representative Angerer made a motion to report HR 76 with recommendation.

**FAVORABLE ROLL CALL:**

**Yeas: Representatives Mayes, Byrum, Angerer, Brown, Kathleen Law, Leland, Sheltroun, Walker, Nitz, Ball, Meekhof. (11/11)**

**Nays: None. (0/11)**

**Pass: None. (0/11) (11/0/0)**

A sufficient number of members voting in the affirmative, the motion prevailed.

Representative Sheltroun made a motion to report HR 96 with recommendation.

**FAVORABLE ROLL CALL:**

**Yeas: Representatives Mayes, Byrum, Angerer, Brown, Leland, Sheltroun. (6/11)**

**Nays: Representatives Walker, Nitz, Meekhof. (3/11)**

**Pass: Representatives Kathleen Law, Ball. (2/11) (6/3/2)**

A sufficient number of members voting in the affirmative, the motion prevailed.

Ken Nobis, President, and John Dilland, General Manager of the Michigan Milk Producers Association (MMPA), spoke to the Committee regarding a variety of issues, including: the MMPA Mission Statement; MMPA locations; milk marketed by MMPA; Michigan's dairy industry and the impact on Michigan's economy; issues facing Michigan's dairy industry; and preserving a Michigan Dairy Industry.

There being no additional business before the Committee, Chair Mayes declared the Committee adjourned, the time being 4:02 p.m.

---

Representative Jeff Mayes, Chair

Catherine Petroskey, Committee Clerk  
(517) 373-8538